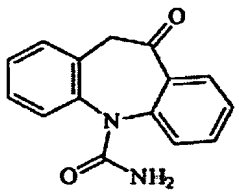
CLAIMS

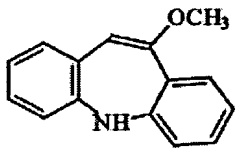
1. Process for preparing oxcarbazepine of formula



(I)

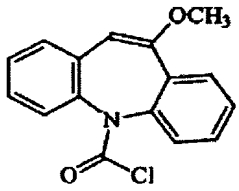
which includes:

a) the chlorocarbonylation reaction of the compound of formula



(II)

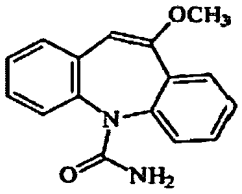
with triphosgene in the presence of a base, to give the compound of formula



(III)

2. Process according to Claim 1, which subsequently includes:

b) ammonolysis of the compound of formula III to give the compound of formula



(IV)

and

c) acid hydrolysis of the compound of formula IV to give oxcarbazepine I.

3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed with triphosgene in a molar ratio, relative to the compound of formula II, of between 0.46:1 and 0.54:1 and more preferably at about 0.5:1.

4. Process according to Claims 1 to 3, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed using triethylamine as base, in a molar ratio relative to the compound of formula II of between 1.4: 1 and 1.6:1 and preferably at about 1.5:1.

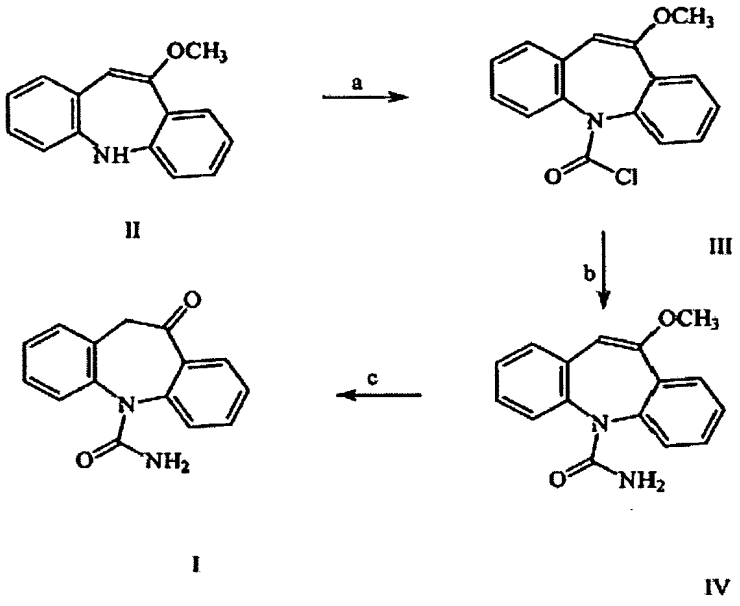
5. Process according to Claims 1 to 4, in which the said chlorocarbonylation reaction a) is performed in toluene and at a temperature of between 90 and 110°C.

6. Process according to Claims 2 to 5, in which the ammonolysis b) is performed with aqueous ammonia in methanol.

7. Process according to Claims 2 to 6, in which the deprotection c) is performed with hydrochloric acid in aqueous medium at a pH of about 1 and at a temperature of between 90 and 95°C.

ABSTRACT

Process for preparing oxcarbazepine according to Scheme 1:



characterized by the use of triphosgene as chlorocarbonylating agent in step a).